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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/700,808	11/04/2003	Robert T. Bigelow	BA-U-COV-00010	4771

7590 11/06/2006  
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EXAMINER

A, PHI DIEU TRAN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3637

DATE MAILED: 11/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/700,808

Applicant(s)

BIGELOW, ROBERT T.

Examiner

Phi D. A

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5,12,19,22-24 and 26-29 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-11,13-18,20,21,25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 6-11, 13-15, 17-18, 20-21, 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bax et al (5313666).

Bax et al (figure 1) shows a cover comprising a first segment (13) having a longitudinal axis, an interior surface and having an arcuate exterior surface perpendicular to the length of the axis, the arcuate exterior surface of the first segment having at least one affixing member (17), a second segment (18) having a substantially flat surface, a plurality of ribs (19, 20) disposed between and joined to the inner surface of the first segment and the substantially flat surface of the second segment, a plurality of attachment elements (24) disposed on the ribs, the second segment is substantially rigid, the cover is substantially hollow, the first segment having an access opening, the second segment having an access opening.

With respect to the limitations to the core and the method of usage thereof, the elected invention is to the cover only and the limitations to the cover fully met by the reference above.

3. Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-18, 20-21, 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rempel et al (6367496).

Rempel et al (figure 3, 9) shows a cover comprising a first segment (46) having a longitudinal axis, an interior surface and having an arcuate exterior surface perpendicular to the length of the axis, the arcuate exterior surface of the first segment having at least one affixing

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member (36), a second segment (30) having a substantially flat surface, a plurality of ribs (the bars separating part 22 from part 30) disposed between and joined to the inner surface of the first segment and the substantially flat surface of the second segment, a plurality of attachment elements (28) disposed on the ribs, the second segment is substantially rigid, the cover is substantially hollow, the first segment having an access opening, the second segment having an access opening.

With respect to the limitations to the core and the method of usage thereof, the elected invention is to the cover only and the limitations to the cover fully met by the reference above.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4,6-11,13-18,20-21,25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### ***Conclusion***

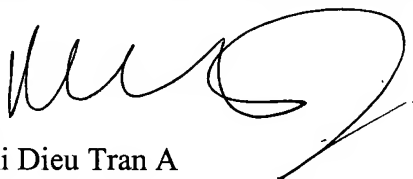
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art shows different covering device.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phi D A whose telephone number is 571-272-6864. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 571-272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Phi Dieu Tran A

10/30/06